

Commissioners Rebuke Parks Land Trade

30 Aug 1984

SALT LAKE CITY—When approached by a delegation of Wasatch County Officials, Governor Scott Matheson stated that the land trade between the Division of Lands and Parks and Recreations might be "solving one problem by creating another."

Commissioners George Holmes and Pete Coleman, along with County Planner Robert Mathis and County Attorney Joe Tesch, appealed to the governor early this week to get him to enter the land trade on the agenda of the special session that will take place on Sept. 5.

Governor Matheson said that he normally doesn't add to special session agendas unless there is some concern shown. Gov. Matheson said that the session would be open and possible discussion could come up.

"We're not complaining about what the state has done for us at Wasatch Mountain," said Commissioner Coleman, "we appreciate that."

"We object to this trade and

believe it's not in the best interest of the Park system," said Commissioner Coleman.

The proposed trade is a result of the Parks and Recreation wanted to build a facility on Cisco Beach, which is owned by the State Lands and Forestry. The Parks and Recreation would declare the northeast tip of the state park as surplus, and then trade it for the land in Cisco Beach.

The land in the Wasatch State Park is not being developed at present, but the delegation argues that in the event the Jordanelle Reservoir is put in, there will be a demand for recreation in that area of the State Park.

Commissioner Coleman contends that the property, if turned over to the State Lands Division would be eligible for private development under the law, which would take that land out of the public sector and put it into private hands.

Though the protest was received, there may be no action taken during the special session.

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In our opinion

The Mountain West's first newspaper

DESERET NEWS

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Salt Lake City, Utah

How Utah can improve its state parks system

Visits to Utah's 44 state parks have grown dramatically: from 603,789 in 1963, when there were 27 state parks, to 6,436,048 last year.

But Utah's parks, still stuck at 1975 budget levels because of inflation and fund cuts, can't keep pace with continued growth without juggling the system and improving its management. To do that, the Division of Parks and Recreation for the past three years has been attempting to define just what a state park is and what its use should be.

One reason for the study is to establish criteria to judge what new areas might be included in the system, and what present parks might be moved to other government agencies where they would better fit administration aims. The parks system is being continually urged, for example, to acquire areas for preservation or administration. Just recently the Jordan River Parkway was added to the system. Definite criteria are needed to determine what should or should not be included.

Under guidelines unveiled this week, State Parks has established three categories: Recreational, heritage, and natural parks.

Recreational parks, of course, are primarily devoted to sports activities. To qualify, says the study, a park should provide for "extensive participation and at least seven recreational activities, five of which must be camping, fishing, boating, picnicking, sight-seeing, swimming, water skiing, golf, sailing, or hiking." And they must be within an hour's drive of a cumulative population of 30,000 people, with access to major transportation.

The aim of heritage parks is "to interpret, protect, and enhance areas of historic, cultural, or commemorative value that are intrinsic to Utah's heritage." They must provide an "indispensable link" to Utah's heritage. Anasazi State Park at Boulder is a good example.

The last category is natural parks, intended to set aside prime natural areas that can be developed for large numbers of people. Dead Horse State Park is just such an example.

By defining the aims of the parks system, the state should find it much easier to find examples of parks that don't meet all the criteria. At least seven present state parks have been tentatively identified that could be administered more efficiently by other agencies. Included are Big Sand Wash near Roosevelt, Bonneville Salt Flats, Camp Floyd, Danger Cave near Wendover, Fort Deseret near Lyndyll, Monument Valley, and Piute Reservoir.

But that raises some important questions: Won't it be even more expensive to set up one or several new bureaucracies to administer these areas than to continue the present system? Surely the state doesn't want to divest itself of such a historic site as Camp Floyd, for example, even if it doesn't meet the new parks criteria.

Granted, the list is only tentative and still subject to public review and discussion. But the state should make sure these areas will be protected and administered as well, if not better, than they're currently getting. Divesting the state of some of its parks is a matter that should be undertaken with careful thought.

may come this week

be glad to work with them," Gore said. The goal is to be out of the existing shelter by Nov. 1. That deadline can be extended. If a lease were obtained on the warehouse this week, we could begin the move next week on the move from present site to the warehouse. That would give two weeks to put the warehouse into shape," Gore said.

While, Heber A. Tippetts, vice president of Emergency Housing Assistance, and Dick W. Bailey of the Salt Lake engineering department, are expected to begin the planning required for the warehouse, which was used for storing equipment, said only tentative planning was under way for the building.

The possibility of major structural, heating, ventilation or other problems at the warehouse has not been discussed publicly. Some time-consuming and costly problems have been encountered at transient shelter sites.

Gore said he was still awaiting an updated tally on private contributions received for the shelter program, but he doesn't believe the amount is substantially higher than the \$63,000 in private donations and the \$30,000 loan reported last week.

Tippetts said donations of \$5, \$10, \$20 and other amounts for the emergency shelter program are continuing to be received at his office at Travelers Aid Society.

Gore said city finance people will work with shelter planners to get a more formalized budget drafted for shelter operations. He said a meeting will be set up this week.

The city official said no action will be taken to lease additional space from Salt Lake businessman Stephen Neeley, owner of buildings adjacent to the Bailey warehouse, until the Bailey lease is obtained. The additional space, approximately 2,500 square feet, would be used as a day room for women and children and for washer and dryer facilities, linen storage and a small office.

still looking for new site

and families, must soon move out of its facilities at 349 and 353 S. Third West to make way for area redevelopment.

The Army, city, Emergency Housing Assistance and other officials have talked about a merger of the army and Emergency Housing Assistance, but it doesn't appear the merger will occur in the immediate future.

Miller said he would recommend to Capt. Wilkum, commander, that the army not join the transient shelter this year but continue to study that possibility next year.

Miller would permit more time for serious planning. We need to get all our programs back on track. We also take on a shelter program, which is not accustomed to running, it would be too

burdensome. Trying to look for space for our own programs is enough of a headache at this time. I believe Capt. Pickup will go along with my recommendation," Miller said.

Jerald D. Holyoak, chairman of the army's capital campaign committee, said Tuesday that \$962,000 has been made in pledges, gifts-in-kind and insurance. Insurance payments from the fire are expected by Nov. 1. Of the total, \$270,000 is in cash. Holyoak gave this updated report to the advisory board Wednesday.

The army's capital campaign goal is \$1.5 million.

"We would appreciate it if people would remember us in their prayers. We certainly need them now, more than ever before," Miller said.

WE GET ONE FREE!